सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के माध्यम से ग्रामीण आबादी को राशन की सप्लाई

*333 श्री अश्विनी कुमार :

श्री केलाशपति मिश्र :

क्या खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) इस समय विभिन्न राज्यों तथा संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के कितने प्रतिशत लोगों को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली द्वारा नियंत्रित मूल्यों पर राशन उपलब्ध होता है ; और

(ख) सरकार सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के माध्यम से शेष ग्रामीण आबादी को राशन की सुविधाएं प्रदान करने हेतु क्या उपाय करने का विचार रखती है ?

वाणिज्य और खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री (श्री पी० शिव शंकर) : (क) और (ख) राज्य सरकारों तथा संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों से प्राप्त हुई सूचना के अनुसार उपभोक्ताओं को आवश्यक वस्तुओं की आपूर्ति के लिए देश के लगभग समचे दोनों शहरी तथा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के तंत्र के तहत लाया गया है । 31 दिसम्बर, 1985 को देश में चलती फिरती उचित दर की दुकानों सहित लगभग 3.25 लाख उचित दर की दुकानें थीं जिनमें से लगभग 78 प्रतिशत दुकानें ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में कार्य कर रही थीं ।

केन्द्रीय सरकार ने राज्य सरकारों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों को सलाह दी है कि वे विशेषकर ग्रामीण, पिछड़े तथा दूर-दराज के क्षेत्रों में पर्याप्त संख्या में उचित दर की दुकानें खोले, ताकि उपभोक्ता आवश्यक वस्तुएं आसानी से प्राप्त कर सकें, उचित दर की दुकानों को आवश्यक वस्तुएं सप्लाई करने के लिए जिलावार योजनाएं बनाएं. खंड तथा ग्राम स्तरों सहित विभिन्न स्तरों पर उपभोक्ता सलाहकार समितियां गठित करें तथा सभी स्तरों पर कारगर सुपुर्दगी प्रणाली सुनिश्चित करने के लिए निरीक्षण तथा प्रवर्तन उपायों को कड़ा करें ।

Foreign Exchange released for Medical Treatment Abroad

*334. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons who were sanctioned foreign exchange for medical treatment abroad during the last three years;

(b) what is the amount of foreign exchange released in each case during the above period; and

(c) what are the rules for releasing foreign exchange for medical treatment abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The number of persons who went abroad for medical treatment and the amount of foreign exchange released to them during the last three years is given below:

Year	No. of persons	Foreign exchange released
		(Rs. in lakhs)
1983-84 . .	554	622.14
1984-85 . .	621	730.96
1985-86 . . (Upto Oct.' 85)	566	678.08

The amount of foreign exchange released in each individual case during the above period is not available. The average foreign exchange released per person in each year

during the above period amounts to:

Year	Average f.e. released per person
	(*Rs. in lakhs*)
1983-84	Rs. 1.12
1984-85	Rs. 1.18
1985-86 (Upto Oct.' 85) . . .	Rs 1.20

(c) All applications for the release of foreign exchange for medical treatment abroad are examined in the Reserve Bank of India in accordance with the prescribed guidelines on this subject. Persons who wish to proceed abroad for medical treatment or for reasons of health are required to apply to the R.B.I. is the prescribed form. Such applications are to be accompanied by a certificate in the prescribed from the treating physician or surgeon or the presidency surgeon of the area in which the applicant resides. The certificate should indicate that the ailment from which the patient suffers is such as to require treatment abroad and the treatment of a high standard is available in the country which the patient proposes to visit and should give an estimate, if possible, of the cost of treatment, besides stating whether any attendant will be required to accompany the patient. This certificate is also required to be endorsed by the Chief Administrative Medical Officer of the State concerned in the prescribed manner. Recently, Government have agreed to the waiver of recommendation from State Chief Administrative Medical Officer in those cases where the medical treatment is recommended by the Directors of All India Institute of Medical Sciences New Delhi, Post-Graduate institute, Chandigarh and Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay. In addition Heads of all Medical Colleges/institutions recognised by the Medical Council of India have also been empowered to recommend to the RBI the release of foreign exchange for medical treatment abroad.

Normally where the estimates of expenditure of medical treatment are not indicated by the applicant a maximum of US $ 5000/- is initially released by the RBI. In cases, however, where the estimates are produced either from the everseas hospital or from the recognised competent authorities mentioned above, foreign exchange is released as per the estimates produced without any ceiling, subject of-course, to the rendering of accounts in due course to the RBI.

If the application for medical treatment abroad is complete in all respects, foreign exchange is released by the RBI generally on the same day on which it is received.

In emergency cases, however, where any delay is liable to endanger the life of the patient, officers incharge in the RBI at their discretion are allowed to release exchange even without production of the certificate from the prescribed medical officer.

Import of Cephalaxin

*335. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain companies have been importing certain other drugs under the guise of Cephalaxin because of custom duty exemption;